GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4604
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2001
CLOSURE OF ONGC/OIL OFFICES FROM BIHAR
ARUN KUMAR

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed its PSUs like ONGC and Oil India Limited to pull out its offices and operations from Bihar;

(b) whether ONGC and OIL has completed its targets fixed by the Union Government for exploration schemes in Bihar; and

(c) the reason to suspend operation in Bihar by both PSUs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (c): Operations of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(ONGC) in Gandak Project in Bihar and its office at Patna were closed on 30.4.1996. Land belonging to the Railways which was being utilised as storage yard and the railway siding were handed over by ONGC to the Railways in February, 1998. OIL has never operated in Bihar.

While there were no targets, ONGC had acquired 122 Ground Line Kilometers of 2D seismic data in Bihar, during the year 1997 in the field season 1996-97. In addition, Research & Development activities in coalbed methane were initiated in 1997-98 by ONGC in the Jharia coal-field areas of Dhanbad district of Bihar, which now falls in Jharkhand.

The operations of ONGC in Bihar were suspended since its activities had not brought out any encouraging results.